



## State of Connecticut

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### **Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 1000**

#### **AN ACT CONCERNING THE SALE OF CERTAIN MUNICIPALLY OWNED REAL PROPERTY.**

**February 17, 2023**

Senator Rahman, Representative Kavros-DeGraw, Senator Fazio, Representative Zullo, and distinguished members of the Planning and Development Committee,

As policymakers, we talk often about getting municipalities to work collaboratively. That is especially true for towns that are adjacent to one another.

Neighboring towns not only share common borders. They share important public services such as emergency management and first responders, animal and water pollution control. Neighboring municipalities also are bound through nature, transportation services, and environmental protection initiatives.

This is a bill about encouraging towns to work collaboratively and inclusively. To work as good neighbors.

It only makes sense that when one Town owns land that is entirely within its neighbor's borders that the host community have the right of first refusal on the sale of that land. After all, the reason the owner is selling is because it doesn't want anything to do with the property but the host community may because it's their land.

SB 1000 is a common sense proposal which states that any municipality that intends to sell real property owned by such municipality that is located, in whole or in part, in another municipality, shall grant such other municipality the right of first refusal to purchase such real property at fair market value. Such right of first refusal shall be deemed waived 90 days from the date of any such offer to sell, if such other municipality has not accepted such offer in writing.

SB 1000 is a common sense way to encourage fairness as well as reasonable, neighborly, good government.

I urge your support of SB 1000. Thank you for your time.

Kevin C. Kelly  
Senate Minority Leader